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JOINT STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FIVE WESTERN NATIONS
ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

On April 25, 1978, the South African government announced its acceptance of the proposals of the Western Five for an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibia problem. However, when the United Nations Secretary-General published his report on the implementation of the proposals, the South African government expressed concern that certain aspects of the report were not in accordance with the Western proposal. The areas of concern were the size of the military component of UNTAG, the question of consultations, the proposal for police monitors and the date of the elections. The statement by the Secretary-General in the Security Council on September 29 addressed itself to clarification of these areas of concern.

The five foreign ministers and the South African government discussed these clarifications further in order to establish common ground on the implementation of the report of the Secretary-General. The following main points were examined:

1. Police Force:

While the South African delegation considered the number of civilian personnel envisaged for police monitoring responsibilities excessive, it believed that the Secretary-General's explanatory statement in the Security Council had removed South Africa's preoccupation with the character and role of the personnel concerned. It had become clear that the functions of the existing police forces would not be affected.

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2. Consultation:

The five intimated their agreement that they were committed to the principle of fair consultation, emphasizing that this had been re-affirmed by the Secretary-General in his introductory statement of September 29 in the Security Council. This would cover, inter alia, the composition and actual size of the military component of UNTAG. The five intimated that they would seek confirmation that their interpretation coincided with that of the Secretary-General. On that basis the South African delegation felt that the question of consultation could be resolved.

3. Troops:

The composition and the actual total figure of UNTAG would be determined by the Secretary-General after consultation by his Special Representative with the Administrator-General in the light of the prevailing circumstances.

The South African government and the five foreign ministers accordingly believe that it would now be appropriate for the Secretary-General's special representative, Mr. Ahtisaari, to resume his discussions with the South African Administrator-General of Namibia within the framework of Security Council resolution 435 which endorsed the Secretary-General's report. The aim of these discussions would be to work out the modalities of the proposed elections under United Nations supervision and to fix a date for these elections. The five foreign ministers therefore intend to recommend to the Secretary-General that he should instruct Mr. Ahtisaari to proceed to Windhoek as soon as possible. In addition, it was regarded as appropriate to recommend to the Secretary-General that he begin consultations on the composition of the military component of UNTAG.

The South African government stated that the planned December elections must be seen as an internal process to elect leaders. The South African government will thereafter use its best efforts to persuade them seriously to consider ways and means of achieving international recognition through the good offices of the Special Representative and the Administrator-General. In implementation of this goal the Special Representative would consult with the Administrator-General on all aspects of the Secretary-General's report (including the fixing of a further election date).

The five foreign ministers stated with regard to the unilateral elections in December, that they saw no way of reconciling such elections with the proposal which they put forward and which the Security Council has endorsed. Any such unilateral measure in relation to the electoral process will be regarded as null and void.